

What is Claimed is:

1. An interactive program guide system including user equipment with which an interactive television program guide is provided and which includes a video recorder and a television, comprising:

5 means for receiving television program guide information for use in the interactive television program guide;

10 means for selecting a program for recording from the interactive television program guide;

15 means for determining whether the selected program is copy protected; and

means for displaying a message informing a user that the selected program may not be recorded upon determining that the selected program is copy protected.

2. A method for using an interactive program guide system using user equipment with which an interactive television program guide is provided and which includes a video recorder and a television, comprising:

5 receiving television program guide information for use in the interactive television program guide;

10 selecting a program for recording from the interactive television program guide;

determining whether the selected program is copy protected; and

displaying a message informing a user  
that the selected program may not be recorded upon  
15 determining that the selected program is copy  
protected.

3. An interactive program guide system  
including user equipment with which an interactive  
television program guide is provided and which includes  
a video recorder and a television, comprising:

5 communications circuitry configured to  
receive television program guide information for use in  
the interactive television program guide;

display circuitry configured to display  
the interactive television program guide; and

10 control circuitry configured to (1)  
provide a user with an opportunity to select a program  
for recording from the interactive television program  
guide, (2) determine whether the selected program is  
copy protected, and (3) direct the display circuitry to  
15 display a message informing the user that the selected  
program may not be recorded upon determining that the  
selected program is copy protected.

4. A machine-readable medium for  
implementing an interactive television program guide  
comprising machine program logic recorded thereon for:

5 receiving television program guide  
information for use in the interactive television  
program guide;

providing a user with an opportunity to  
select a program for recording from the interactive  
10 television program guide;

determining whether the selected program  
is copy protected; and

15 displaying a message informing the user  
that the selected program may not be recorded upon  
determining that the selected program is copy  
protected.

5. An interactive program guide system  
including user equipment with which an interactive  
television program guide is provided and which includes  
a video recorder and a television, comprising:

5 means for receiving television program  
guide information for use in the interactive television  
program guide;

means for displaying the interactive  
television program guide;

10 means for selecting a program for  
recording or for viewing from the interactive program  
guide;

means for receiving the selected program  
with copy protection;

15 means for offering the selected program  
for purchase at a price for the program without copy  
protection when the program is selected for recording;

20 means for (a) removing the copy  
protection from the selected program, (b) providing the  
selected program without copy protection, and (c)  
directing the video recorder to record the selected  
program when the program is purchased at the price for  
the program without copy protection;

25 means for offering the selected program  
for purchase at a price for the program with copy  
protection when the program is selected for viewing;  
and

30 means for providing the selected program  
with copy protection when the program is purchased at  
the price for the program with copy protection.

6. The interactive program guide system  
defined in claim 5 wherein the price for the program  
without copy protection is more than the price for the  
program with copy protection.

7. A method for using an interactive  
program guide system using user equipment with which an  
interactive television program guide is provided and  
which includes a video recorder and a television,  
5 comprising:

receiving television program guide  
information for use in the interactive television  
program guide;

10 displaying the interactive television  
program guide;

selecting a program for recording or for  
viewing from the interactive television program guide;

receiving the selected program with copy  
protection;

15 offering the selected program for  
purchase at a price for the program without copy  
protection when the program is selected for recording;

removing the copy protection from the selected program, providing the selected program without copy protection, and directing the video recorder to record the selected program without copy protection when the program is purchased at the price for the program without copy protection;

offering the selected program for purchase at a price for the program with copy protection when the program is selected for viewing; and

providing the selected program with copy protection when the program is purchased at the price for the program with copy protection.

8. The method defined in claim 7 wherein the price for the program without copy protection is more than the price for the program with copy protection.

9. An interactive program guide system including user equipment with which an interactive television program guide is provided and which includes a video recorder and a television, comprising:

5 communications circuitry configured to receive television program guide information for use in the interactive television program guide;

display circuitry configured to display the interactive television program guide;

10 circuitry configured to remove copy protection from programs; and

control circuitry configured to (1) provide a user with an opportunity to select a program for recording or for viewing from the interactive  
15 television program guide, (2) direct the display circuitry to display a message offering the user the selected program for purchase at a price for the program without copy protection when the program is selected for recording, (3) direct the tuner circuitry  
20 to tune to the selected program with copy protection, (4) direct the circuitry to remove the copy protection from the selected program and provide the selected program without copy protection and a video recorder to record the selected program without copy protection  
25 when the program is purchased at the price for the program without copy protection, (5) direct the display circuitry to display a message offering the user the selected program for purchase at a price for the program with copy protection when the program is  
30 selected for viewing, and (6) direct the tuner circuitry to provide the selected program with copy protection when the program is purchased at the price for the program with copy protection.

10. The interactive program guide system defined in claim 9 wherein the price for the program without copy protection is more than the price for the program with copy protection.

11. A machine-readable medium for implementing an interactive television program guide comprising machine program logic recorded thereon for:  
receiving television program guide  
5 information for use in the interactive television program guide;

providing an opportunity for a user to select a program for recording or for viewing from the interactive television program guide;

10 receiving the selected program with copy protection;

offering the selected program for purchase at a price for the program without copy protection when the program is selected for recording;

15 removing the copy protection from the selected program, providing the selected program without copy protection, and directing the video recorder to record the selected program without copy protection when the program is purchased at the price for the program without copy protection;

offering the selected program for purchase at a price for the program with copy protection when the program is selected for viewing; and

25 providing the selected program with copy protection when the program is purchased at the price for the program with copy protection.

12. The machine-readable medium defined in claim 11 further having machine program logic recorded thereon for offering the program wherein the price for the program without copy protection is more than the  
5 price for the program with copy protection.